

IRS Oversight Board

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Contact: Joelle Jordan
202-622-9931/703-998-0148

BOARD NAMES NEW CHAIRMAN; WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

The IRS Oversight Board elected Raymond T. Wagner, Jr. as its Chairman on September 22nd. Mr. Wagner succeeds Nancy Killefer, whose term as Board Chair expired. Appointed to the Board by President Bush and confirmed by the Senate last year, Mr. Wagner is one of the Board's seven private sector members. He is currently Legal and Legislative Vice-President for Enterprise Rent-A-Car, headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri. Previously, he served in the cabinet of Illinois Governor Jim Edgar as Director of Revenue and also as Director of the Missouri Department of Revenue under then-Governor John Ashcroft.

Mr. Wagner extended his appreciation to the outgoing Board Chair. "I speak for the entire Board when I say how grateful we are for Nancy's outstanding leadership as Board Chair. During her term, the Board provided the type of strategic guidance and oversight that Congress envisioned when it created the Board. As a result, we are seeing better management and improved performance in key IRS programs." Ms. Killefer's five-year term as a Board member continues until September 2005.

The Board also welcomed a new private sector Board Member. Recess-appointed to the Board by President Bush, Paul B. Jones is currently Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Regulatory Policy at Time Warner Telecom headquartered in Littleton, Colorado. He was sworn in later that day at the Treasury Department by Deputy Secretary Samuel W. Bodman. "We look forward to working with Paul Jones. His dedication to public service combined with his private sector expertise and decision-making in areas such as computer systems development and process reengineering should prove to be extremely helpful to the Board and the IRS," Board Chair Wagner said.

Steady Progress in BSM Program Reported

The IRS' Business Systems Modernization (BSM) program is showing steady progress, IRS Chief Information Officer Todd Grams told the Board at its September 23rd meeting. Mr. Grams described improvements in the program's management over the past year that have contributed to more timely delivery of projects. The Customer Account Data Engine version 1.1, which, when fully completed, will replace the IRS' archaic Master Files, has operated smoothly since its launch in July. The next version of CADE is scheduled to be released in January and is expected to be delivered on time. Other projects, including the second release of the Modernized e-file, releases of E-services, and version 1.1 of the Custodial Accounting Program (CAP) were delivered on time or ahead of schedule this year. In addition, timely delivery is anticipated for the Integrated Financial System (IFS) and the next version of CAP.

Board Moves Forward on Long-Term Measure Initiative

At its September 23rd meeting, the Board heard from an expert in developing indicator initiatives, and plans to discuss at its next meeting the process of developing such an initiative, focusing on tax administration. In its Annual Report, the Board said, “the effective use of performance measures in strategic decision-making requires long-term, measurable performance goals and objectives.” For that reason, the Board is moving forward in exploring a long-term tax administration indicators initiative. Such an initiative could help identify strengths and weaknesses in key tax administration areas, such as compliance, over a long period of time. Information and insights gleaned from the initiative can help the IRS set long-term goals and direct its resources appropriately.

Broad Perspective on Tax Administration Sought

The IRS Oversight Board is seeking a broader perspective on issues affecting taxpayers, and will soon contact Congressional Committees, IRS stakeholders, and oversight bodies to obtain their views on tax administration. The Board highly values the insight and information on tax administration issues it receives from those outside the IRS. Issues raised will help the Board shape its agenda and provide guidance to the IRS.

The Board’s next meeting will be held November 30th-December 1, 2004 in Washington, DC.